

COUNTRY GERMANY <i>C/S only</i>		REPORT NO. 52A-5336A	(LEAVE BLANK) 140089								
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT											
SUBJECT Sociological and Political Conditions in the USSR		(INTERVIEWER) KNOEDLER, Wilhelm (FW)	(EDITOR) KREJCI								
AREA REPORTED ON USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAF)									
DATE OF REPORT 4 Mar 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Dec 51 - Oct 53	EVALUATION F-6									
PREPARED BY (Officer) SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN, Lt Col, USAF		SOURCE 270634									
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) 52A-5337) (52A-5320)											
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)											
<p>A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:</p> <p>1. SOURCE was born on 4 Jul 26 in REISBACH (coordinates unknown). He attended eight years of elementary school and became afterwards a forger. During his time of confinement in Russia he learned to understand and speak the Russian language fluently.</p> <p>2. From Oct 45 to May 46 SOURCE was interned in PW camp, number unknown, in KHARKOV (4057N-4845E) during this time he worked in an agricultural machinery plant as a welder and had his first contact with Russian workers. From May 46 to Dec 49 SOURCE was interned in PW camp, number unknown, in ZAPOROZHYE (4750N-3510E). During this time he worked as a welder on the reconstr of the steel plant in this town. During working hours he often talked to Russian workers, supervisors and truck drivers. From Dec 49 to Feb 51 SOURCE was interned in forced labor camp #27 in VORKUTA (6731N-6359E). During this time he had the occasion to talk to Russian prisoners. From Feb 51 - Oct 53 SOURCE was interned in forced labor camp 5110/44 in STALINO (4800N-3748E). During this time he worked as a welder on the constr of new apartment houses in the area of this town. During this time SOURCE had conversations with Russian workers and supervisors.</p> <p>3. The interviewer had the impression that SOURCE is very familiar with the Russian living conditions and with the attitude of the Russian population. He hated the Soviet Regime and was very willing to cooperate. He was of average intelligence and remembered details very well.</p> <p>B. SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS:</p> <p>SOURCE stated that the population of Kazhakstan and of the Ukraine were extremely against the Soviet Regime. The main reason for their discontent was the treatment of the kolchoso. When the kolchoso economy had been started in 1948 in Kazakhstan many of the people opposed it openly, and were arrested; many moved to the Ukraine to join the Ukrainian resistance movement. Further sources of discontent were the republics of Russia which were occupied by the Germans during World War II. This population lived much better during the occupation than after the liberation by their own government. SOURCE stated that about 60% of the young Russian occupation forces of the SZG who came back from Germany had a different view of living conditions in the Western World.</p> <p>5. Strong supporters of the Regime were particularly the young members of the KOMSOMOLZ Youth Organization. SOURCE stated that these young Russians were the most dangerous he ever met. They were brought up on the Soviet propaganda and were convinced and fanatic Communists. SOURCE once talked to a 19 year old boy of this organization in summer 1952; he told him that the Russians were well aware of</p>											
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the big danger of military unification between Germans and Americans, because the American material in the hands of Germans could even wipe out the mighty Russian Army. However, he told him, within two years there will be no army in the Western World which can defeat the Russians. SOURCE stated further that strong supporters were about 70% of the Russian intelligentsia, who due to their higher positions led a much better life than the average Russian.

6. The main sources of discontent were the low living standard, the low wages and high prices, the fear of the MVD and the difference between the living standard of the intelligentsia and the working class.

C. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF STALIN:

7. SOURCE had the impression that STALIN was hated by the older population and beloved by the younger population up to 20 years of age. He once talked to an about 30 year old constr supervisor in 1952 who told him that the ideas of LENIN were very good, however, he told him when LENIN died STALIN kept only to the general line of LENIN's ideas and did otherwise exactly the contrary.

8. Although no Russian said anything about the death of STALIN because it was very dangerous, SOURCE had the impression that most of the workers were glad that he died, and hoped for a better future. The MVD guards were disappointed and surprised.

12. SOURCE heard from a Russian labor supervisor that all Jews who worked in the Ukrainian government were ousted two days after the arrest of the KREMLIN Doctors. SOURCE had the impression that the population enjoyed this. However, not because these were Jews, but of their belonging to the intelligentsia.

13. The Russians were very surprised of the 17 Jun Revolt. Their reactions were varied. Some of the population thought that this would be the start of the next war against Germany and some of them wondered and expressed that only the intelligent and sly Germans were able to do something like that. The Russians did not actually show sympathy and showed more or less a neutral waiting attitude.

14. SOURCE stated that on the day after BERIA's arrest, three MVD guards of the PW camp who were known to be friendly toward the PWs were replaced.

16. Shortly before SOURCE left Russia in Oct 54 he talked to a Russian truck driver who worked on a kolchese. This driver told him that the kolchese were allowed to sell their products on the free market. However, the new taxes which they had to pay due to these sales were so high, that they had to sell 50% of the products which they kept on the kolchese for their own workers to meet the demanded taxes. He stated further that due to this fact it would be better to turn the products over to the government as before. SOURCE never noted any ration increases after STALIN's death.

17. SOURCE had the impression that MOLOTOV was still the most beloved man in the Ukraine, because he demanded the abolition of the kolchese, and because the population respected him as the most intelligent man of Russia.

18. SOURCE had the impression that the population hoped at the start of the new government, for a better future. However, since MALENKOV had not changed anything after two months and had not kept his promisses, the population was very disappointed and regarded him as the second STALIN.

19. In Jul 50, SOURCE talked to a 16 and 19 year old Ukrainian who were caught in Jun 53 together with a 21 year old girl when they tried to raid a military food storage together with 25 members of a Ukrainian resistance organization of which they did not reveal the name. He told SOURCE that the organization was equipped with modern weapons. He told him further that the organization works all over Russia. The organization wants to free Russia from the Soviet Regime. The two boys were convinced that members of this organization would liberate them very soon. The two boys and the girl were sentenced by a military court in ZAPOROZHYE to 50 years of forced labor for conspiracy against the government. SOURCE stated the these two boys made a good impression although they were still very young they did not fear to die for the ideals of their organization.

20. It was common knowledge that most resistance organizations were in the

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Ukraine. SOURCE remembered vaguely that the name of one of these organizations was the BLACK HAND.

E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS:

During the time from Dec 49 to Feb 51 when SOURCE was interned in the area of VORKUTA, he was in forced labor camp #27 and in the so-called CEMENT CAMP. Camp #27 had 2,400 inmates of whom 50 were Germans the rest were Russians, Latvians, Lithuanians and Poles. All inmates worked in the nearby coal mine. Camp still active when SOURCE left the area. CEMENT CAMP had 1,600 inmates of which 400 were Germans and 1,200 Russians. Inmates worked in a nearby stone quarry and on the constr of the cement plant. In the center of this camp and separated from this camp was the most feared camp named OLP 15. In this camp were 250 inmates who went hand cuffed and rigidly guarded to work. These inmates who were 90% Russians and 10% various nationalities, were without exception dangerous criminals, murders and robbers. They were brought to this camp from various forced labor camps in the USSR. If they did not show improvement in their conduct after six months they were transferred to the NOVAYA ZEMLYA Island (coordinates unknown) as SOURCE was told by an MVD guard. SOURCE stated that inmates were hand cuffed when they went to work and had to undress completely when they came back from work to prevent tools, such as hammers, shovels, knives, etc. into the camp, which were found sometimes when the camp was searched by the MVD. Another camp of which SOURCE knew was the female camp #5 in which were about 1,200 women from Russia and Germany. SOURCE heard from an MVD guard that in the surrounding area of VORKUTA about 300,000 men were imprisoned in forced labor camps. SOURCE talked to a fellow PW in Oct 50 who was transferred to his camp from the forced labor camp #14. He told him that he was together with three Americans and two British inmates who worked in coal mine #14.

F. VOICE OF AMERICA:

29. SOURCE had the impression that the VOA was the most interesting broadcast program for the Russian radio owner. He talked to about 6-8 truck drivers who told him that they heard the VOA every night. SOURCE had the impression that they believed every word which was said in this broadcast. Each one told him that the Americans discuss really openly the Russian problems. Once a truck driver told him in Jun 53 that he had heard from the VOA, that ADENAUER had a conference with EISENHOWER about the German PWs in Russia. The Russian really enjoyed the VOA.

30. SOURCE heard that aforementioned facts from Russian truck drivers, who mostly owned a radio; the drivers were all between 25 and 35 years old. SOURCE stated that the Russian talked to him only when he was sure that noone was around.

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